

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 9, 11 - 13 and 16 - 24 remain active in this application. The indication of allowability of claims 10 - 13 and 16 - 22 is noted with appreciation. Claims 10, 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Amendment of claims 1, 23 and 24 has been requested to include the recitations of allowable claim 10 and it has been requested that dependency of claims 11 - 13 be revised accordingly. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

Claims 1 - 5, 8 - 9, 14 - 15 and 23 - 24 have again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. in view of Mueller and claims 6 - 7 have again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. in view of Mueller and Davis et al. These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed for the reasons of record and, particularly as being moot in view of the amendments requested above.

While the grounds of rejection maintained by the Examiner are still believed to be improper for the reasons of record, all the recitations of allowed claim 10 have been added to independent claims 1, 23 and 24 and dependency of allowed claims 11 - 13 has been revised in order to expedite the prosecution of this application. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendment, upon entry, places the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance and entry of the requested amendments is respectfully submitted to be fully justified for that reason. It is further respectfully submitted that no new issue which could support denial of entry could possibly be raised by the above-requested amendments. Accordingly, entry of the above-requested amendments and allowance of the application at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner become aware of any issue

which would preclude immediate allowance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contact by telephone at the number provided below in order to expeditiously resolve the same.

Since all rejections, objections and requirements contained in the outstanding official action have been fully answered and shown to be in error and/or inapplicable to the present claims, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration is now in order under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.111(b) and such reconsideration is respectfully requested. Upon reconsideration, it is also respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is therefore respectfully requested.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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